

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KINSHA 05838 061649Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-20 ACDA-12 NASA-02 OES-07 /122 W

-----085791 070220Z /21

R 061558Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 213

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

USUN NEW YORK 1581

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS KINSHASA 5838

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TSPA, EAIR, CG

SUBJECT: OTRAG'S SECOND 1978 ROCKET TEST LAUNCH

REF: A) LUBUMBASHI 650; NOTAL B) LUBUMBASHI 649, NOTAL

1. KINSHASA DAILY "SALONGO" JUNE 6 REPORTED OTRAG'S SECOND 1978 TEST LAUNCH JUNE 5 WHICH WAS OBSERVED BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND MEMBERS OF THE PRESS WHO HAVE BEEN COVERING SHABA WAR. THE TEST ROCKET, REPORTEDLY MEASURING 12 METERS IN HEIGHT AND WEIGHING 3 TONS LIFTED ONLY 12 METERS OFF LAUNCH PLATFORM BEFORE TURNING AWAY FROM THE PLANNED TRAJECTORY AND CRASHING INTO LUVUA RIVER VALLEY AT THE EDGE OF THE LAUNCH AREA. ROCKET'S FAILURE WAS REPORTEDLY DUE TO MALFUNCTIONING CONTROL VALVE WHICH CUT OFF FUEL TO ONE OF THE ENGINES. SPOKESMAN FOR OTRAG STATED THAT LAUNCH HAD BEEN 100 UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KINSHA 05838 061649Z

PER CENT SUCCESSFUL.

2. PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND MEMBERS OF THE PRESS (MOSTLY BELGIAN) WERE PRESENT FOR THE TEST LAUNCH, AS WAS STATE COMMISSIONER FOR TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION ENGULU, ZAIRIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF BRIGADIER GENERAL KIKUNDA, ZAIRIAN PRESS AGENCY HEAD ELEBE, AND LUTZ KAYSER, OTRAG DIRECTOR GENERAL. AFTERWARDS

MOBUTU AND KAYSER SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH THE PRESS. KAYSER GAVE BRIEF EXPLANATION OF LAUNCHING DIFFICULTIES, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS QUITE COMMON.

BOTH HE AND MOBUTU DEFENDED THE CONTRACT BETWEEN OTRAG AND GOZ AND STATED AGAIN THAT SOLE PURPOSE OF PROGRAM WAS TO DEVELOP COMMERCIALY VIABLE ROCKETS FOR LAUNCHING COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER NON-MILITARY SATELITES UNDER CONTRACT FOR OTHER COUNTRIES. MOBUTU PARTICULARLY STRESSED BENEFITS OF ARRANGEMENT FOR ZAIRE INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT OF 200 ZAIRIANS BY OTRAG, ROYALTIES TO BE RECEIVED BY GOZ FOR EACH ROCKET LAUNCHED FOR A CLIENT, AS WELL AS THE AID OTRAG WILL PROVIDE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHABA REGION.
CUTLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, ROCKETS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA05838
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780237-0124
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780692/aaaadble.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d3136e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LUBUMBASHI 650, 78 LUBUMBASHI 649
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2479337
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OTRAG'S SECOND 1978 ROCKET TEST LAUNCH
TAGS: PINT, TSPA, EAIR, CG, OTRAG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d3136e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014